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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

1961



R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, *Senior Public Health Inspector.*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*THE MAYOR (Councillor HERBERT BRINDLE, J.P.), *ex officio*.

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Medical Officer of Health:

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,
 R.S.I. FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health Inspectors:

R. CANNON, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I. FOOD INSPECTION.
 (Resigned 2/1/61).

F. C. EVANS, CERT. P.H.I.E.B., R.S.H. FOOD INSPECTION.

P. BIRCH, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.H. FOOD INSPECTION.
 (Appointed 4/4/61).

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

C. L. GARSIDE.

Clerks:

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.
 Miss C. WILKINSON.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Health Department during 1961.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	1,504 statute acres
Population	27,250 Estimated mid-1961. 28,614 Census 1951
Number of Inhabited houses, 1931	7,104
Number of Inhabited houses, 1961	9,319
Rateable Value (1st April, 1961)	£282,852
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,029

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1961

BIRTHS				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...		218	207	425
Illegitimate...	...	...		16	5	21
			Total ...	234	212	446
STILL BIRTHS				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...		4	7	11
Illegitimate...	...	...		—	—	—
			Total ...	4	7	11
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population				<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>	
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births ...				16·2	17·4	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR				24·1	18·7	
YEAR				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...		5	15	20
Illegitimate...	...	...		1	—	1
			Total ...	6	15	21
INFANT MORTALITY RATE				<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>	
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births) ...				47·1	21·4	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ...				16		
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 total births ...				Nil	0·33	
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population				16·0	12·0	

The death rate of 16 is the highest recorded since 1919. It is much in excess of the death rate of 12 for England and Wales. The principal causes of death for the last ten years are shown below.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Bronchitis	24	24	29	31	18	25	34	26	19	35
Pneumonia	10	11	6	13	13	10	22	33	12	19
Heart Disease ...	108 (44)	99 (44)	93 (43)	80 (41)	91 (48)	121 (64)	134 (55)	98 (53)	109 (59)	127 (76)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .	42	42	45	48	52	46	57	61	65	72
Cancer	59 (12)	56 (7)	53 (8)	48 (12)	51 (9)	56 (15)	66 (11)	63 (18)	57 (14)	80 (17)

The figures in brackets denote the deaths due to coronary disease and those due to lung cancer.

To a large extent deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia vary with the climate but a cleaner atmosphere is a tremendous help in combating these infections often fatal to old people.

Heart disease in some form still increases—coronary thrombosis accounts for more than half.

It is surprising that lung cancer is still increasing but now that propaganda against cigarette smoking is more insistent deaths from this disease should diminish. There is, however, an exaggerated concern among some of the non-smoking general public and even among some of the medical profession when cigarette smoking is mentioned. The question of cigarette smoking should be regarded dispassionately. Those who inhale and whose daily ration of cigarettes exceeds twenty-five a day are liable to acquire a lung cancer. Those who do not inhale and whose daily ration of cigarettes is under twenty are very much less liable to the disease. Those who do not smoke at all are not likely to get a lung cancer, although the disease can, and does, occur in non-smokers. Smokers of pipes and cigars are much less liable to lung cancer than cigarette smokers. No-one as yet has ever questioned the role of the cigarette paper in causing lung cancer. May not this be the main reason that cancer occurs mostly in cigarette smokers ?

Smoking is a habit like nail biting, sucking barley sugar, chewing betel nut or gum or taking pep pills. It is an expensive habit and harmful in excess. The most effective propaganda would be that directed to the higher classes or forms in school. It must be intensive propaganda to combat the television and cinema where a cigarette and something in a glass is the hall mark of sophistication.

The unfortunate death from poliomyelitis of a well known professional football player some years ago brought a great influx of teenagers of both sexes to the immunisation sessions. There are in the world of sport, in tennis, football, cricket, golf, swimming, boxing, athletics, fit men and women who do not smoke. These are the people who will influence teenagers and whose photographs in action should form an excellent propaganda basis.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 49.3 is the highest in the Borough since 1945. Of the 21 infant deaths, 12 occurred on the day of birth and were due to prematurity or congenital abnormalities and with one exception the confinements took place in hospital. Of the remaining nine deaths, five occurred within 14 days due to prematurity and congenital abnormalities, except one due to pneumonia. The remaining deaths varied from two to nine months, two due to lung infections and two to congenital abnormalities. There were no births recorded with abnormalities due to thalidomide. Deaths from all causes are shown in Table II.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1961

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis—respiratory	3	1
Syphilitic disease	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	41
Coronary disease, angina	43	33
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
Other heart disease	19	32
Other circulatory disease	12	28
Influenza	2	4
Pneumonia	7	12
Bronchitis	27	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Congenital malformations	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	32
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	5	6
Suicide	2	2
Total ...	218	257

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from a mild outbreak of measles, a hardy biennial or triennial, there has been little infectious disease. It is pleasing to find the number of whooping cough infections remaining low. One third of the cases of pneumonia occurred in people over 65.

TABLE III
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1961

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods—Years									
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25& over	
Scarlet fever	20	—	1	1	7	3	7	1	—	—	
Whooping cough	10	1	3	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	
Acute poliomyelitis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles(excluding rubella)	176	7	27	27	26	36	51	2	—	—	
Diphtheria	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery... ..	11	1	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	4	
Meningococcal infection...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		0-		5-		15-		45-		65 & over	
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	27	6		2		2		8		9	
Smallpox	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Acute encephalitis	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Enteric or typhoid fever...	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Paratyphoid fevers	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Erysipelas... ..	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Food poisoning	2	1		—		1		—		—	
Tuberculosis-Respiratory	5	—		1		1		2		1	
Meninges & C.N.S.	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Other	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	
Puerperal pyrexia	Nil	—		—		—		—		—	

OLD PEOPLE

Every year there are more old people and every year they are getting less decrepit. In the Borough the Old People's Welfare Committee continues to do excellent work in helping old people. The "Over 60 Clubs" are flourishing and there is a weekly "Meals on Wheels" service which is much appreciated. But the old people are still lonely. There are still too few beds available for the aged sick and too little accommodation available for the aged infirm. It should not be so difficult as it is to get this accommodation for these people when it is required.

The deaths among the over 65's numbered 252 and of these 206 exceeded the age of 70, 75 exceeded the age of 80, and 30 lived beyond 85 years. The deaths during the months are given below.

DEATHS IN THE 65 AND OVER AGE GROUP

January	February	March	April	May	June	July
27	33	23	23	15	25	16
August	September	October	November	December		
18	16	12	20	24		

February "fill dyke" is invariably the worst of the winter months for old people. This month in 1961 was a wet month with some fog and warmer than usual during the day. Lung infections as a primary or contributory cause were responsible for 17 of these deaths. Two people over 90 and 12 over 80 died in this month.

Of the 23 deaths in April, 11 occurred in one week when the weather was showery with occasional fog, but only one death was due to Bronchitis. There was, however, a temperature swing from 63°F. to 39° F.

In the last three weeks in June the weather was very hot with a maximum temperature of 77°F. during the last week. During these weeks 20 deaths occurred in which cerebral haemorrhage and arteriosclerosis accounted for 11 and heart disease in some form for 6 deaths. Hot, close weather is very exhausting for old people.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE

The unruly behaviour of many young people today (young means any age up to the twenties) is the penalty paid for the departure from the family life and the lack of parental control. In the very young it is wanton destruction of anything to hand, and in the older group it is the lunatic horseplay after the public houses close. The defence offered in court for this older group is often "I had too much to drink." There is a correct approach here to this problem. Not the preaching of rabid teetotalism but the expression of profound contempt for the man who cannot carry his liquor or who keeps on drinking more than he should.

It is extremely difficult in this town to keep public conveniences in a reasonable state of cleanliness and efficiency. Lavatory seats are broken and hurled about, cistern chains disappear, doors are broken and electric bulbs are taken. Every lavatory should have wash basins and towels in keeping with modern hygiene. What chance is there of attaining this in Farnworth? Nearly all this damage is done after the public houses close, and must be witnessed by some responsible citizens. Do they ever report it to the police and help to identify the vandals?

A young person brought up to respect his parents, his elders and his home could never resort to vandalism.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :

			<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i)	By the local authority ...	...	106	Nil
(ii)	By other local authorities ...	...	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons ...	...	58	Nil

TABLE IV

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1—(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	541
(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	1606
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...	...	...	...	372

2—	Total number of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit...	490
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2. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Displaced</i>	
In Clearance Areas :	<i>Demolished</i>	<i>during year</i>	<i>Persons Families</i>
1—Houses unfit for human habitation	32	90	29
2—Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
3—Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

Not in Clearance Areas :	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>	
		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
4—As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
5—Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
6—Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
7—Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—	<i>Displaced during year</i>		
	<i>Number Persons Families</i>		
1—Under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	1	1	1
2—Under Section 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
3—Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—			
	By Owner	By local authority	
1—After informal action by local authority	187	—	
2—After formal notice under—			
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	1	
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	
3—Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	—	

5. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE
(HOUSING ACT, 1957) :—

Position at end of year :	<i>No. of separate dwellings con- tained in col. (1)</i>	
	<i>Number of Houses (1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>
1—Retained for temporary accommodation :		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17 (2)... ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
2—Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	Nil	—

6. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

	Number of houses (1)	No. of of houses in col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders, or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil	Nil

7. HOUSING ACT, 1949, & HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC. :—

Action during the year :—

	No. of schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	20	20
(b) Approved by local authority	20	20
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	20	20

8. HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959—STANDARD GRANTS :—

Action during the year :—

	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Applications approved by local authority	31
(b) Work completed	31

There are 9,319 houses in the Borough, of which 3,224 are Council-owned. Many of the privately-owned houses are in brick-built terraces, of similar pattern, constructed in the nineteenth century. Although these houses, for the most part, have separate backyards, adequate means of ventilation, paved streets, individual water-closets and a piped water supply, many are in poor repair. Evidence of structural movement is common and modern amenities are often absent. Only the best of these houses are suitable for worthwhile improvement, indeed more than 600 of them were put on the Council's Slum Clearance programme in 1956. When that programme is completed no doubt many more houses will be found to qualify for another.

Housing progress during 1961 is shown in Table IV and may be summarised as follows:—

1. New houses built	164
2. Houses improved by Improvement Grants	51
3. Unfit houses repaired under Public Health Acts ...	188
4. Unfit houses closed	1
5. Unfit houses awaiting demolition	111
6. Unfit houses demolished	32
7. Unfit houses in Slum Clearance Programme not yet dealt with	379

As the clearance of unfit houses proceeds, vacant sites will become available for development. Along with other considerations, the pattern of housing demand, particularly amongst the older people who make up a fair proportion of the families displaced by clearance, suggests a need for compact dwellings not too far from the town centre. This need might be met by re-building on sites which have been cleared.

An estate of modern bungalows built during the year by private enterprise has been well received, and we may see more of this kind of development in the future.

Owner-occupiers continue to take advantage of Improvement Grants, mainly to provide bathrooms, hot water systems and indoor sanitation. Few landlords avail themselves of this opportunity to modernise their houses. Whether this is for economic reasons or otherwise, it perpetuates a situation whereby many sound houses which will be the homes of Farnworth families for years to come remain basically as they were built sixty or more years ago. There may be merit in an idea for a system of "Improvement Areas," with a procedure similar to that for Clearance Areas.

The enforcement of essential repairs to privately rented houses continues to be an important function of the Department. The present system of giving informal notice to landlords and allowing a reasonable time for repairs to be done before serving Statutory Notice works well, more so when it is understood that once a Statutory Notice has been served it will be rigidly enforced.

The repair of houses scheduled for clearance is problematical. It would be unreasonable to require landlords to incur great expense on this kind of property, yet because of its age and worn-out condition even essential repairs can become extensive and costly. In such cases, we have to be content with keeping weather out, drains running, and sinks and lavatories working.

The number of notices served during the year is shown below.

Number of notices served:—

Informal	98
Statutory	2
Legal proceedings	Nil

The upsurge of activity in house repairs which took place immediately following the Rent Act in 1957-58 has now died down, and few inspections are now needed for this purpose. The Act was instrumental in promoting repairs to many older houses, but regrettably much of this repair was superficial and often did not go far enough.

The powers of Local Authorities to deal with houses in multiple occupation have been strengthened by the Housing Act 1961, but this is not a serious problem in Farnworth.

Table V shows the number of houses built and demolished during the last fifteen years.

Derelict, unoccupied houses readily give rise to nuisance and have a bad effect on adjoining property. For this reason, demolition rather than closure is regarded as the best way of dealing with houses which have become so unfit as to be incapable of economic repair. Unfortunately, demolition is not always practicable.

A solution was provided during the year by the Public Health Act, 1961, to the problem of untidy sites left vacant by demolition. The Act gives the Council powers to require rubble to be removed, drains to be properly sealed off, and adjoining property to be safeguarded.

A number of objections were received in respect of the Council's proposals for clearance in the Crompton Street Area, and the subsequent Public Inquiry involved a great deal of revisiting and administrative work in the Department. Thirty-two of the 136 houses in this Area were demolished during the year, and when the remainder are pulled down a total of 379 houses will be left of the 602 in the Slum Clearance Programme. Many of these are in the Glynne Street/Gower Street Area, where it is hoped to make progress during 1962.

Most of the 100 prefabricated dwellings erected after the war have been taken down. Those left are beyond economic repair and are expected to be demolished in 1962.

TABLE V

BUILDING	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
By Local Authority															
Houses	98	98	55	122	38	75	64	156	102	39	98	34	—	24	106
Pre-Fabs	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flats	32	48	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—
By Private Builders															
Houses	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	1	2	2	10	4	1	6	58
Houses Demolished	—	4	—	—	—	—	9	—	13	—	4	71	3	75	32
Closing Orders	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	—	—	—	1	1

Housing difficulties have been encountered as a result of displaced families having to leave temporary accommodation provided in the Borough by Lancashire County Council.

These families often have to move into poor houses, sometimes several families in one house. These people are not Farnworth people. They are invariably "problem families" which are no asset to the town and it seems unjust that they have to be considered for re-housing by the Farnworth Council which has already a long waiting list for Council accommodation.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem in Farnworth. Although there were twenty-one families on the Overcrowding Register at the end of the year, none are overcrowded beyond the Statutory limit, and a number of them are awaiting suitable alternative accommodation. Others are in houses which are due for clearance and will be re-housed as demolition proceeds. The rate of demolition, however, is determined by the number of available houses for the displaced families. Clearly if enough new houses are not built then the Slum Clearance Programme stagnates, and the brighter and better Farnworth is further ahead in time.

CARAVANS

Farnworth has for many years been a homing-place for moveable dwellings. Many fairground people and their families regard the town as their home, where they return to winter and to prepare for the year ahead. Since the Market Ground was closed to caravans at the end of 1959 there have not been suitable sites for the 50 or 60 caravans which are usually to be found in the town during the winter months, and many of them have had to "make do" on various unsatisfactory plots of spare land around the town. These areas of spare land are often privately owned, and the caravans are there without the landowners' permission. Water supplies, sanitary arrangements and other facilities are frequently inadequate.

Although the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act of 1960 provides penalties for allowing the unauthorised use of land for this purpose, it is difficult to see what would be gained by forcing caravanners off unsuitable sites when there is no satisfactory alternative site to which they could go. The Act allows local authorities to construct and maintain suitable caravan sites, and in consequence of the difficulties being experienced in various parts of the country the Government are urging local authorities to make use of those powers in appropriate cases.

CLEAN AIR

The cleanliness of the air we breathe is no less important than the purity of our food and drink. The achievement of cleaner air, not an easy task, has become one of the major duties of public health authorities in "black areas."

Air pollution in urban areas arises from three main sources—industrial furnaces and processes, domestic firegrates, and motor vehicles. A great amount of research is carried out by various organisations to discover the nature and extent of pollution from different sources, to assess the harmfulness of pollutants, and to find ways of reducing pollution.

The Clean Air Act of 1956 enables local authorities to secure reductions in smoke emissions from industrial and domestic chimneys. In theory, this is a fairly straightforward job; excessive industrial smoke can be eliminated by using suitable fuel in properly operated and efficient furnaces; and domestic smoke can be abolished by the use of smokeless fuel. It is on these two fronts that the first stages of the fight for clean air is being waged. But there are many obstacles, not the least of which is the difficulty in persuading householders who have burned coal for many years to change to smokeless fuel. Industrialists, too, are not always easily convinced that expenditure on modern furnace equipment is going to be worthwhile.

Measurements of air pollution in Farnworth have been made regularly for some years. Tables VI and VII show the average daily amounts of smoke and sulphur in the atmosphere recorded in two different parts of the town each month during 1960 and 1961. They justify Farnworth's inclusion in the Government list of "black areas"; they show the seasonal fluctuations which are to be expected in this climate; and they indicate that pollution levels in a residential area (Avondale Road) are little different from those in a more congested industrialised area (Farnworth Grammar School).

Over the past few years smoke pollution from industrial chimneys has declined, but until domestic smoke can be reduced by the establishment of Smoke Control Areas no significant reduction in the general level of smoke pollution can be expected.

Thanks are again due to the staff and students of Farnworth Grammar School for their assistance in air pollution measurement work, which is done in collaboration with the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

TABLE VI

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SMOKE

**Measurements recorded by volumetric instruments at
Avondale Road and Farnworth Grammar School**

Expressed as daily averages for each month in microgrammes
per cubic metre of air.

	1960		1961	
	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School
January	520	566	504	480
February	410	453	341	340
March	270	270	320	350
April	238	263	258	265
May	220	190	188	186
June	60	100	124	108
July	102	118	102	99
August	166	170	117	114
September	261	237	179	188
October	420	389	252	253
November	392	450	484	—
December	616	670	820	848
Averages for year ...	306	323	307	294

TABLE VII

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SULPHUR

**Measurements recorded by volumetric instruments at
Avondale Road and Farnworth Grammar School**

Expressed as daily averages for each month in microgrammes
per cubic metre of air.

	1960		1961	
	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School
January	331	460	390	365
February	322	373	231	286
March	236	318	243	294
April	197	254	234	225
May	223	200	194	175
June	117	160	134	128
July	92	111	108	92
August	130	123	132	125
September	166	180	180	124
October	304	310	230	200
November	318	348	525	—
December	480	474	1063	1113
Averages for year ...	244	276	305	293

CLEAN FOOD

Again it has to be reported that no systematic inspection of food premises has been possible. Many visits have, of course, been made, and much useful work done. But there remains a situation whereby a careless or unscrupulous food trader can carry on his activities unchecked for too long. Happily, most food handlers are aware of the dangers of unclean practices and they act accordingly. We are helped in this field, of course, by the increasing tendency for food to be pre-wrapped, but many of the commodities which are most likely to cause food-poisoning are still sold as open food, and it is here that attention is needed most.

Of the 8,000 food-poisoning incidents reported in the country in 1959, three-quarters were traced to cold meats which had been re-handled, made-up meats such as meat pies, and re-heated dishes. Housewives can influence traders by making it clear that they choose those who take special care to ensure the freshness, cleanliness and good storage of the foods they sell.

Would it be too much to ask of food traders to invite their customers to look "behind the scenes?" Surely there can be no better way of advertising the quality of their goods.

The first stage of an extensive reconstruction scheme at a large bakery in the town was completed during the year. The manufacture of cakes and confectionery, previously carried on in unsatisfactory premises, was transferred to a large new building, thus accommodating all the bakery manufacturing processes under one roof. Further extensions, due to start in 1962, will provide modern premises for packing, storage and dispatch of the firm's goods.

During the year all public houses in the Borough were inspected and reported upon. Particular note was taken of the adequacy and suitability of glass-washing arrangements, hand-washing facilities, sanitary accommodation, and ventilation. The various breweries concerned have been informed of deficiencies found and steps are being taken to have them put right.

Conditions at some of the Market food stalls continue to give cause for concern. It is hoped that improvements will be effected when the Council's plans for modernisation and development of the Market are carried out.

Two food-poisoning incidents which occurred locally during the year, at about the same time, were apparently unconnected. In the first, a man admitted to hospital with a salmonella infection had been employed in a local bakehouse. Foodstuffs from the bakehouse were examined without positive result, and samples from

other people employed there were negative. In the second case, several Farnworth relatives of another hospital patient with a similar infection had been in contact with him prior to his admission. Two of these contacts were employed in the food trade. Samples from all the contacts were negative.

Although some improvement has taken place during recent years, the condition of food vehicles is not always satisfactory, nor are the habits of the people using the vehicles. Certainly, compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulation which requires food handlers to "take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect food from risk of contamination" cannot be taken for granted.

The number of food premises in various categories is shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII
NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE
END OF 1961

TYPE OF BUSINESS	NO.
General grocers and provision dealers	144
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including these selling wet fish, game, etc.)	31
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.)	38
Bakers and/or confectioners	45
Fried fish shops	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establish- ments.	95

UN SOUND FOOD

No unsound food had to be seized. The following foodstuffs were surrendered to Public Health Inspectors and destroyed after being examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Tinned foods	1,935 lbs.
Other foods	348 lbs.

ICE CREAM AND PRESERVED FOOD

Under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, premises used for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream, or for the preparation or manufacture of certain other foodstuffs, must be registered with the local authority. Under these provisions, two premises are registered for ice-cream manufacture, although neither was used for that purpose during the year. Three additional premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice-cream, making a total of 122. Twenty-nine premises in the Borough are registered in connection with the preparation or manufacture of other specified foods. During the year 53 visits were made to these registered premises.

MILK

The issue of licenses to produce or sell milk became the responsibility of the County Council at the beginning of the year, but the Council retains the duty to keep a register of all distributors of milk in the district. At the end of 1961 there were 158 milk distributors on the register, 12 having been added and nine removed during the year.

Sampling of milk at dairies and farms and from distributors' vehicles is undertaken by the officers of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture. The samples are subjected to bacteriological or chemical examination.

The year 1961 saw the opening of a new extension to a large dairy in the town, which already dealt with some 2,300 gallons of milk daily. The extension has increased the throughput to almost 4,000 gallons per day.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, the Food and Drugs Authority for the district is the Lancashire County Council, and samples of food and drugs are taken by officers of the County Health Department in collaboration with the local authority. Particulars of samples taken during the year are given in Table IX.

TABLE IX
ADULTERATION OF FOOD
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1961 :—

Milk	119
Other articles	49

The 49 other articles comprised :—

3 Lemon cheese	1 Potted shrimps
4 Ice-cream	1 Tapioca
1 Pearl tapioca	2 Treacle
2 Ointment of ammoniated mercury	2 Camphorated oil B.P.
1 Concentrated gingerade	4 Whisky
1 Rum	1 Gin
2 Dried fruit	1 Condensed milk, skimmed, sweetened
4 Curry powder	2 Vitam'n C tablets
2 Cream, sterilised	1 Suet pudding mixture, sweetened
1 Sponge cake and sponge pudding mixture, sweetened	3 Pork luncheon meat, canned
2 Boric lint B.P.C.	1 Honey
2 Luncheon meat, canned	2 Butter
1 Ice lollies	1 Separated milk and vegetable fat, canned
1 Bread and butter	

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below :—

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Lemon cheese	Soluble solids only 57%. Should be 65%.	Manufacturers interviewed.
1 Lemon cheese	No name of the food on label. Voluntary list of ingredients incomplete and in wrong order. Should read "Sugar, fresh eggs, margarine, lemon juice, butter."	Packer interviewed.
1 Lemon cheese	No name of the food, no name and address of packer. No declaration of nett weight. Soluble solids by refractometer only 58.8% (should be 65%).	Manufacturers interviewed.
1 Formal milk	Fat 2.9%, deficient 1.6% fat	Producer notified.
1 Ointment of ammoniated mercury	Container did not bear the word "poison".	Vendor communicated with.
1 Camphorated oil B.P.	Contained cotton seed oil. This has not been official since the 1948 B.P.	Vendor communicated with.
1 Curry powder	Contained 2,100 parts per million zinc. Maximum recommended limit 50 parts per million.	Stock withdrawn and further sample obtained.
1 Curry Powder	Contained 2,400 parts per million zinc. Maximum recommended limit 50 parts per million.	Suppliers communicated with and stock withdrawn from sale
1 Curry powder	Contained 2,400 parts per million zinc. Maximum recommended limit 50 parts per million	

1 Informal milk	Contained a used foil cap similar to that capping the bottle.	Dairy communicated with. Vendor notified and further samples obtained. Complainant informed.
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.7%, deficient 10% fat.	
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.80%, deficient 6.6% fat.	
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.85%, deficient 5% fat.	
1 Bread and butter	Sample contained 6 grams of butter, of which 0.12 gram. was bleached in colour and had a very slight rancid flavour.	Further sample obtained and vendor cautioned.
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.30%, deficient 23.3% fat. Freezing point indicated 37.3% extraneous water.	
1 Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 2.8% extraneous water.	
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated 0.3% extraneous water.	

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

One private slaughterhouse has continued to operate throughout the year. It was reported last year that work had begun on improving the premises to bring them up to the standard required by the Slaughterhouse Regulations. This work continued in 1961, and by the end of the year substantial progress had been made, although not all the items requiring attention had been covered. It is expected that the premises will be made to fully comply with the Regulations early in 1962.

The animals slaughtered were of the usual good quality, and little evidence of disease was discovered. No tuberculosis was found, but liver-fluke infestations increased. Details of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease are shown in Table X.

During the year eight persons had their licences to slaughter animals renewed.

TABLE X

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Carcases inspected and incidence of Diseases

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	339	5	Nil	Nil	1294	Nil
Number inspected	339	5	Nil	Nil	1294	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	4.5%	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.77%	Nil
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HAWKERS

There were 13 names on the register of Hawkers at the end of the year, only three of whom were operating. No new registrations were made during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water which is supplied by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The supply was from Ferns Pressure Filters, Sweetloves Rapid Gravity Filters and the Lake District Undertaking. Eight samples of both raw and filtered water taken from Ferns Pressure Filters and Sweetloves Rapid Gravity Filters were subjected to full chemical analysis and 98 samples of raw and 99 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Borough Analyst. In addition, 63 samples of water from the supply of the Lake District Undertaking were examined. The results showed that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B.Coli being absent in 98.7% of the potable water samples tested. Where 100% bacteriological purity was not obtained a second sample taken immediately proved to be satisfactory. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Regular bacteriological examination of the water in the distribution system has been carried out and of the 18 samples obtained from the Farnworth area, B.Coli was absent in all cases.

During the year an additional 559 yards of 2in., 438 yards of 3in., and 210 yards of 4in. diameter water main were laid within the area.

SEWERAGE

Virtually all buildings in the town are connected to the sewerage system. Some sewers are old and defective, others are overloaded, and some parts of the system have been affected by subsidence. An extensive programme is under consideration for the reconstruction of all brick sewers in the Borough.

During 1961 the sewer reconstruction work in the Hall Lane area was completed. This work, which altogether has cost about £350,000, was made necessary by the extensive disturbance of the sewerage system during the Fylde Street subsidence of 1957. The old main sewer in Fylde Street has been reconstructed as a water-course and a new outfall sewer has been laid between Lorne Street and Hall Lane. Completion of this work allowed the open trench across the Railway Goods Yard at Moses Gate, which had been operating as an emergency main sewer for nearly four years, to be filled in.

DRAINAGE

As in past years, the inspection and testing of new drainage work and alterations to existing drainage has been an important function of the Department. Development of land for private house building, and provision of bathrooms in existing houses under the Improvement Grant Scheme, are reflected in the increased number of drainage visits made during the year. It is the Department's practice to examine and test drains as soon as possible after notification is received from the builder. This helps the builder and the property-owner.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water closet. Of the few remaining waste-water closets, three were converted during the year, the Council paying £10 towards the cost of each conversion. The present position is as follows:—

Pail closets	3
Waste water closets	18
Fresh water closets	10,528

PUBLIC BATHS

A considerable amount of work has been done at the Public Baths in King Street during the past five years. New filtration plant was installed in 1956-57, the swimming pool was re-constructed and enlarged in 1959-60, and a start was made in 1961 on improvements to changing rooms and other facilities. Laundry equipment and new heating arrangements are to be installed.

The facilities available include a 75ft. x 30ft. plunge, with changing rooms, foot-baths, showers, and seating for spectators. There are also public slipper baths.

The swimming pool water is supplied from the town's mains and is subject to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination, using the "break-point" method of chlorination. Daily samples are taken for determination of residual chlorine content and pH value. Levels of three parts per million of free chlorine and a pH of approximately 7.6 are maintained. Bacteriological sampling of the water gave satisfactory results.

In addition to providing heating for the Baths, the boiler plant supplies heat for the adjacent shopping arcade.

During 1961, 95,538 people were admitted to the plunge, and 9,620 slipper baths were taken.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. Some 10,700 dustbins are emptied weekly by three teams of collectors, the contents being disposed of by controlled tipping.

During the year tipping at Fern Street was discontinued, the land having been levelled and reclaimed for use as playing fields, and the Darley tip was again brought into use.

The poor condition of some dustbins gives cause for concern, although the situation seems to be improving.

VERMIN INFESTATIONS

Effective measures have been taken throughout the year to destroy any infestations found. Cockroach infestations are still being discovered, but their numbers are diminishing. Difficulties in carrying out treatments are usually due to lack of thought on the part of builders, such as fixing wall panels and cupboards with inaccessible spaces behind which cannot be properly cleaned.

A few bed-bug infestations have been found and satisfactorily dealt with. They usually come to light when a house changes hands and cleaning and re-decoration are undertaken.

A local school which for some reason had been invaded by a plague of flies was treated successfully.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Rodent Operator has again been fully employed in this and other disinfection work. Poison baiting of sewers by the "bag" method has again proved successful, and it is hoped that in the future more time can be devoted to this. The experimental use of polythene bags instead of the normal fabric type met with some success, and further trials are proposed.

The modification of untrapped street gullies, which in the past have been responsible for several surface infestations, is proving its worth. The necessity for all remaining gullies of this kind to be trapped is again emphasised. Open connections to the sewers provide the main source of rat infestations, and rodent control begins by stopping up these openings and destroying rats in the sewers.

Infestation of new houses on the outskirts of the town by field mice has occurred. Trapping and poisoning generally provides the answer.

Details of inspections in connection with Rodent Control are given in Table XI.

TABLE XI
RODENT CONTROL
 Action during the year

	Type of Property			
	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All Others	Total
Number of properties in the district	8880	Nil	1578	10,458
Number of properties inspected	790	Nil	298	1088
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	1157	Nil	366	1523
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :				
Rats :	280	Nil	69	349
Mice :	37	Nil	11	48
Number of infested properties treated	317	Nil	80	397

During the year, the Department's Rodent Operative was refused access to a building in order to pursue an investigation, and Formal Notice of Intention to Enter the building had to be served before access could be finally obtained.

NUISANCES

Complaints are received from time to time about accumulations of rubbish, the keeping of animals or birds, the burning of scrap material, and similar nuisances. Complaints of excessive noise are also encountered, particularly where dwellings are close to factories.

These matters are not always easy to deal with. Sometimes it is difficult to prove that public health is endangered, and there is often a long-standing history of disagreement between the parties concerned.

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 128 factories. Of these, 124 are provided with mechanical power. Although 140 visits were made during the year, more frequent inspection is needed if the enforcement of the Factory Act provisions is to be maintained.

More factory premises have been modernised, and improvements made to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and washing facilities. In this work, co-operation with H.M. Factory Inspectors and the Fire Service has continued.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Ministry of Labour, are to be found in the appendix at the end of this Report.

MORTUARY

The public mortuary in Gas Street is in poor condition. It does not comply with modern requirements and has not been used during the year. If the present arrangements with the Bolton and District Hospital Management Committee could be made permanent, the mortuary building should either be demolished or adapted for some other purpose.

PET SHOPS

These premises must be registered in accordance with the Pet Animals Act, 1951. Before registration, the premises are inspected, and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. is sought where appropriate. During 1961 two pet shops were re-registered and two new registrations were made.

SHOPS ACT

During the year three visits were made for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to temperature, ventilation and hours of opening.

HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

This is dependent on many factors but we are without doubt a healthier nation today than at any time in our past. This is as true for the inhabitants of the Borough as it is elsewhere in the country.

Apart from inherited misfortunes whereby a child is born with a predisposition to certain ailments manifest in his parents—diabetes, defective vision, defective hearing, and other defective organic functions, the health of the people is influenced by the conditions under which they live and work, the purity of their food and the cleanliness of the air they breathe. Wise parental care, kindly discipline, the inculcation of good habits, recreational time and opportunity, all play their part.

The duty of the Public Health Staff is to eliminate within the framework of Public Health legislation those factors which are harmful or which discourage a healthy environment.

Ill-health is not the concern of the patient or his relatives and friends only. It is the concern of the nation as a whole because a country and its people can only prosper if good health prevails.

The National Health Service Act of 1946, although not yet perfect in its structure and administration, has brought great benefits to this country. Great Britain has the best medical service in the world in that the bank balance of the individual is not the criterion on which the best treatment for a patient depends, whereas in the United States of America it has been said that "to become ill one must first become rich."

STAFF

Changes in the Public Health Inspectorate resulted in the department being understaffed for part of the year. This led to an increase in the backlog of work and the consequent deferment of some projects. Visits by the Public Health Inspectors are shown in Table XII.

TABLE XII

VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1961

During 1961, 6180 visits were made as follows for the purpose of administering the provisions of the various Acts and Orders.

PUBLIC HEALTH						No.
Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	879
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	136
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	167
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	146
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	72
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	385
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	218
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	136
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	5
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	17
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	148
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	18
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	12
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	140
HOUSING						
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	224
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	325
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	110
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	...	15
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	150
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	28
FOOD AND DRUGS						
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	242
Meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	172
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	88
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	48
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	38
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	60
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	141
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	106
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	213
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	72
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	106

FACTORIES

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	140
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Offices and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	9

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	29
Industrial air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	246
Domestic air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	124
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	12
Measurement of air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	98

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Baths	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	353
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	408

I am fortunate in the loyalty and co-operation afforded me by the staff of the Health Department and as ever for the help and encouragement of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Numbers of	
				Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prosecuted (5)
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	124	140	5	Nil
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	5	9	Nil	Nil
	Total.....	133	149	5	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S. 2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	Nil	4	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	5	1	1	4	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)	No of cases list of default in sending lists to the (c) Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecu- tions (7)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making of wearing apparel	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

